

## **REMARKS**

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in view of the foregoing amendments and following Remarks, is respectfully requested. The Examiner's conditional allowance of claims 1-38 as set forth in Sections 5 and 6 of the Action is noted and greatly appreciated. In addition, the Examiner's careful review of all of the conditionally allowed claims, and pointing out the informalities in these claims as specified in Sections 2, 3 and 4 on pages 2-7 of the Action, is also noted and appreciated.

The Examiner will see from the foregoing amendments that the informality in the specification, as set forth in Section 1 of the Action, has been obviated by the Amendment to page 13 of the specification.

The Examiner's objection in Section 2 of the Action to claims 1, 5 and 9 have likewise been overcome by the amendments to these claims as set forth hereinabove. However, the Examiner's objection to claim 23, namely, the objection to the word "said" in line 1, is not understood and therefore the same has not been deleted by amendment. The "indexable locking system" is referred to in line 1 of claim 3 as set forth in clause (g) of parent claim 1. Approval of claim 3 without this amendment therefore is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has objected on the basis of alleged indefiniteness under 35 U.S.C. §112, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph to each of the claims that have been amended. In each instance of an objection, as set forth on pages 3-7, the claim referenced and the particular objection thereto has been amended to clear up the noted alleged indefiniteness, except in certain instances where the amendment to a preceding parent claim obviated the problem noted by the Examiner, i.e., claim 3

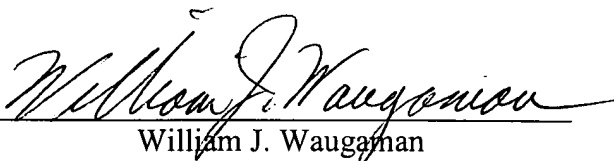
problem obviated by amendment to claim 2, claim 9, (line 5) obviated by amendment to claim 8 and likewise as to the similar problem in claims 23 and 32.

The foregoing amendments to each and all of the amended claims are made without prejudice to the intended literal scope of these claims, and without limiting the scope of their equivalents, to which the inventors are entitled with respect to the claims as originally drafted and filed. In other words, these amendments are considered to be only tangential to their patentability under the "Festo" doctrine cases as being amendments made merely to cure informalities rather than the substance of the claims.

In view of the foregoing, this application as amended now appears to be in condition for allowance with claims 1 through 38 as amended. Accordingly, such action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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